

June 4, 2005

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The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq



Changing times

Coalition transfers
KMTB command
to Iraqi Army

June 4, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: Iraqi Brig. Gen. Saad of the Ministry of Defense, passes the KMTB guidon to Brig. Gen. Abd Zaid, who assumed command of the Kirkush Military Training Base June 2 from U.S. Army Maj. Jim Walton (far left).

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Corps of Engineers: 1,000 projects complete

By Denise Calabria

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The public spotlight recently shone on an unassuming, eight-classroom school in the town of Zakho, Iraq, and for good reason. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division, responsible for oversight of reconstruction in Iraq, announced it had identified Betas School as its 1,000th completed reconstruction project.

The Betas School, located amid rolling hills on the outskirts of the town of Zakho, in the northernmost province of Dahuk, is home to headmaster Ibraheem Nuri, 60 students, and seven teachers.

Nuri was visibly pleased and proud. "I have been the headmaster at Betas School for many years," he said, "but I never imagined it could be such a wonderful school. I am very happy for the teachers and students."

Nuri and his students took part in the school's ribbon-cutting ceremony. The children presented flowers and refreshments to all invited guests, including local government and tribal representatives.

U.S. Army Col. Kurt Ubellohde, district engineer for the Gulf Region

Northern District, and numerous Corps staff members, as well as members from Washington Group International, the company that performed the renovations, also attended the ceremony. Local Kurdish television and U.S. military media chronicled the event.

Renovations to the school included replacing water tanks, water piping, and sewer pipes; installing toilets and sinks; laying a concrete floor and terrazzo tiles; and installing ceiling fans, interior and exterior lights and a school bell. Repairs also were made to the school safety wall.

While Betas School renovation is the 1,000th project, the pristine schoolhouse also serves as a symbol of the 840 planned school projects throughout the country. To date, 171 of these projects are ongoing, and 580 school projects are complete.

Spending on reconstruction projects in Iraq has reached more than \$5.5 billion. Thus far, of the 3,200 total planned projects countrywide, 2,389 have started, 1,215 are ongoing, and 1,174 have been completed in the sectors of Buildings, Health, and Education; Oil, Security and Justice; Electricity; Transportation and Communications; and Public Works and Water.



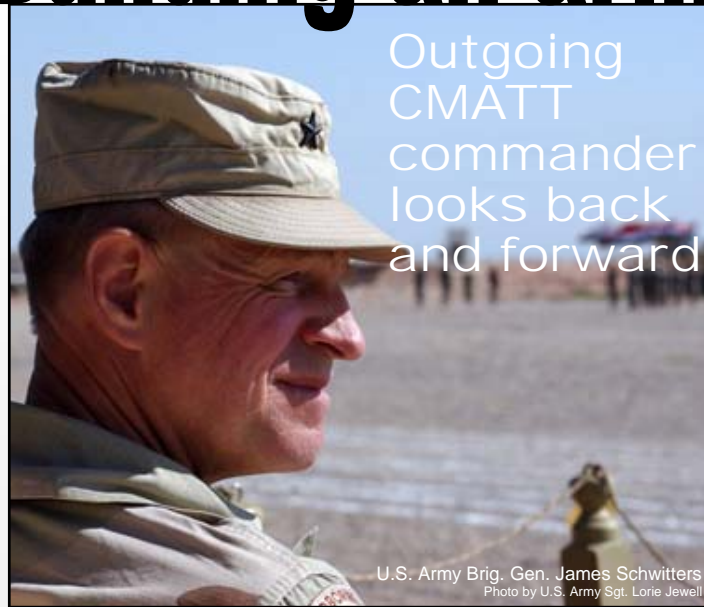
Betas School students file through the gates of their newly renovated school to take part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Photo by Harry Weddington

"People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of their character."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Building an army



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Schwitters, commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Coalition Military Assistance Training Team for the past year, departs June 10 to assume command of the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, S.C. As CMATT commander, Schwitters was responsible for overseeing the manning, training and equipping of Iraqi military forces at bases and academies throughout the country. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Dan Bolger will take over as CMATT commander.

In a June 1 interview with U.S. Army Capt. Tim Jeffers, MNSTC-I deputy public affairs officer, Schwitters reflected on the role and significance of CMATT, and the unique nature of this assignment.

No reference doctrine

Coalition forces learned a big lesson in how to approach the training of Soldiers to prepare them to train and work with Iraqi soldiers, Schwitters said.

“We wrote the book as we went along,” he said, crediting his predecessor, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, with developing a methodology for the training process and having a clear understanding of the task ahead. “He laid the groundwork for much of what we have accomplished.”

When asked what, if anything, he would have changed, Schwitters suggested the CMATT approach was “to adapt and change as capacity changed. We attempted to change as the requirements changed. CMATT has played a unique and indispensable role. Clearly, the mission is changing, and we are beginning to work our way out of a task. It is not yet complete, but much of the core task is completed.”

Attention to fundamentals

“The task of building units, training soldiers, developing a chain-of-command, etc., pales in significance when compared to building an institution,” Schwitters said, explaining that many of the challenges the command experienced that were associated with cultural differences were not a surprise, but the magnitude and complexity of some of those issues were at times quite mystifying.

“We’re not just standing up an army from scratch. There is a cultural legacy that reflects a variety of challenges and disadvantages that we continue to work with the Iraqis to try to overcome,” he said. He stressed the importance of building a strong foundation for the institutions that will guide and support the armed forces.

“Pay attention to the fundamentals,” he said, emphasizing the need to educate leaders and create systems and processes that reinforce the notions of authority, discipline, accountability and honorable service.

Don’t study it to death

Given the dynamic nature of Iraq’s environment, Schwitters cautions fellow Soldiers “to resist the temptation to study things to death.”

Coalition forces are blessed with many impressive, well-organized, and technically advanced communications, reporting, and decision-making systems and processes, he said.

“We often have the ability and luxury to evaluate plans against a variety of assumptions and outcomes. If we tried

See ‘Schwitters’

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Schwitters

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to employ these practices into the Iraqi military structure and culture right now we would quickly realize delay and a palpable lack of action. We tend to have a more sophisticated and developed situational awareness, not because we are any better or more intelligent, but rather because we have been working at it for a longer period of time. Presumably, this same level of capability will come with time, training, and resources."

Common motivations

When asked how this experience changed him, Schwitters noted his observation that "the same forces and motivations to serve in an army exist in Iraqi soldiers as they do in troops in the United States."

Schwitters went on to say that "the Iraqi Army is quite inspiring when you consider what they are facing every day. Clearly, the Iraqi people approach problems differently and they arrive at different solutions."

He advises all Soldiers embarking on this mission to avoid arriving at any pre-conceived notions of the Iraqis. He urges Soldiers to study Iraqi history, customs, culture, and how they think.

"The power and key to being successful here, is to be able to solve problems in an Iraqi context," Schwitters said. "Understand your partner. Work patiently with your Iraqi counterparts and arrive at the best solution. The best solution will invariably be one that is determined in partnership."

The challenge

"The biggest challenge was to get two large and incredibly complex organizations to arrive at a common understanding of an end-state and way ahead," he said. "Given the multiple lines of operation, intricate and complex reporting and procedural processes, it was a real achievement to reach some level of synchronization and compatibility."

Leaders rising to challenges

"The most rewarding aspect of the mission was seeing leaders at all levels, Coalition and Iraqi, rise to repeated

challenges and solve problems together," Schwitters said. "Through consistent teamwork, we were able to make steady, irreversible progress."

He noted the outstanding leadership of CMATT and MNSTC-I soldiers in what has been, and continues to be, an extraordinary mission. He is particularly proud of the Coalition nations and the contributions of knowledge, resources and talent that have been applied to the CMATT effort.

The insurgency

"My observation has been that the persistent attacks by the insurgency have stiffened the resolve of Iraqi Security Forces and have caused public opinion to coalesce around a sense of urgency which is evident within the ranks,"

Schwitters said. "I believe the developments to date have validated our strategy of focusing on the creation of credible, capable, well-led units. We have definitely learned from each other by working together to defeat the threat. I see that trend continuing and I'm encouraged by the troops we have helped train and field."

The way ahead

Coalition forces will continue to support Iraqi Security Forces at all levels until the threat of the insurgency is mitigated. In the meantime, with much of the core task for CMATT is complete, "it is now time to dedicate more resources to 'enablers' (combat support and combat service support) thus giving the Iraqi military more versatility and greater depth," Schwitters said.

A career high point

"The satisfying aspect of this assignment was the breadth of armed forces involved. In addition to the army, we have established a credible navy and air force. I have been blessed with many good assignments," Schwitters said. "This is a high point, bringing all that I have learned about this profession and using it to negotiate a very challenging set of circumstances. I feel like I have made a significant difference and contribution in an environment with no military template or doctrine to follow."

He salutes those who will continue on the job in Iraq and commends his fellow Coalition members for their distinguished and historic service.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Schwitters talks to Iraqi Army recruits at Kirkush Military Training Base in May.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Jim Dirisio

Coalition hands over control of KMTB to Iraqi leaders

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

KIRKUSH, Iraq – With the passing of a guidon, command of the Kirkush Military Training Base transferred to Iraqi Brig. Gen. Abd Zaid in a brief ceremony June 2.

Abd Zaid called the change of command a happy occasion worthy of celebrating.

“The control of KMTB is given from our friends back to Iraq,” the general said, through an interpreter. “I want to express my thanks to the Coalition and to CMATT for making KMTB a great base for Iraq, possibly the best, and for sending the best advisers to assist us.”

U.S. Army Maj. Jim Walton, who ran the base as an adviser with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, described his tenure at the helm as “a great honor.”

In all the things he has done in his military career, Walton said he has enjoyed KMTB most of all.

“I consider you all my brothers, my friends,” Walton said, delivering his remarks in Arabic.



U.S. Army Maj. Jim Walton and Iraqi Brig. Gen. Abd Zaid share a handshake and a gift commemorating the June 2 change of command ceremony at KMTB.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Walton later said that although he took three years of Arabic in college, it was an Egyptian dialect and what little he remembered was of no use. His interpreter at KMTB, who Walton considers a good friend, helped him learn his speech in Arabic.

Although Abd Zaid is now the man in charge, the contract that provides life support to the base will not be officially transferred to Iraq’s Ministry of Defense until July, Walton said. But decisions about how the base operates – everything from dealing with

emergencies and its defense to managing civilian employees and contracts – are now Abd Zaid’s responsibility, he added.

Walton and other CMATT advisers will remain at KMTB to continue mentoring Iraqi leaders through the transfer process.

“We’ve been showing them how we do things and it’s been interesting to see how they adapt things to the way they do them,” Walton said. He added he is confident Abd Zaid will do a good job commanding the base, home to the Iraqi Training Brigade, the 5th Division headquarters and two battalions of the division’s 1st Brigade.

Control of two other Iraqi bases – at An Numaniyah and Umm Qasr – was turned over to MOD earlier this year.

Did you know?

London this year will play host to a number of major activities during Veterans Awareness Week, July 4-10 to entertain and educate people of all ages about the huge contribution that people made during the Second World War.

The week is the first of its kind and is designed to raise awareness of the contribution made by veterans of all conflicts in which the United Kingdom has been involved.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It had been a truly ‘world’ war - the conflict spread across the globe and it is estimated that some 50 million people died as a result. The United Kingdom alone lost around 400,000 people to the War.

This summer there will be a series of public events to



A 20-minute series of images will be projected onto the front of Buckingham Palace at night, telling the story of Britain at War.

commemorate the end of the Second World War held across Great Britain culminating on National Commemoration Day on Sunday, July 10.

Some of the events include Her Majesty The Queen unveiling a memorial to Women of World War II, an exhibition of World War II Art, a Living Museum and “Buckingham Palace as it has Never Been Seen Before.”

- Information provided by <http://www.army.mod.uk/>

Pilots hailed as heroes who died for a free Iraq

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – They spoke different languages and called two different countries home, but U.S. Air Force Maj. William Downs and Iraqi Capt. Ali Abass still had plenty in common.

They shared a love of flying, serving their countries as pilots in their respective Air Forces.

They were wildly devoted to their families; Downs called his wife and three kids every single day and Abass had photos of his displayed everywhere.

They were committed to a free Iraq.

The two died May 30 working toward that end, in a plane crash that also took the lives of three other U.S. Airmen – Staff Sgt. Casey Crate and Capt. Derek Argel and Jeremy Fresques. The three were members of the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron of the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, near Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Downs, a member of the same command's 6th Special Operations Squadron, was serving as an adviser with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Coalition Military Assistance Training Team. Abass was a member of the Iraqi Air Force's 3rd Squadron at Kirkuk Regional Air Base; Downs had been assigned to the squadron for nearly four months.

Downs and Abass were flying an operational mission to Jalula in a Comp Air 7SL surveillance plane when it crashed near the village, officials said. An Iraqi citizen reported the crash around noon to the Joint Communications Center in Khanaqin.



Iraqi Air Force pilot Capt. Ali Abass posed for a photo in the cockpit of a Comp Air surveillance plane in April. Abass and U.S. Air Force Maj. William Downs died in a May 30 crash.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Iraqi and Coalition forces in the area secured the crash site. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

A June 3 memorial service for the five men drew more than 200 people to the base gym, which was closed for the service. A flight helmet and bag rested on a table as friends paid tribute to the men and a slide show of photographs played on a large screen.



At an April graduation ceremony for the 3rd Squadron, U.S. Air Force Maj. William Downs shared insights he had gathered about each of the squadron's six pilots.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Abass' squadron commander spoke briefly of the close-knit relationship Abass and other members of the squadron shared with their Coalition partners and offered a Muslim prayer.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Brett Wilkinson, who shared a room with Downs at the base, described three strong traits he will always remember about his friend. He was a man of God, he loved his family, and he was a warrior whose mind worked overtime coming up with plans and ideas for defeating the enemy.

"Chow time is normally a time to relax and eat," Wilkinson said. "But for Brian, it was an opportunity to seek out folks he could share ideas with and maybe work with. He was able to accomplish a lot in the three and a half months he was here."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Kris Smith read a letter from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron's lieutenant commander, who described his men as exceptional leaders and consummate team players who never failed to exceed standards.

"Leading men like this was easy," wrote Lt. Cdr. Bradley Thompson. "I always knew they would do the right

See 'Pilots'

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Iraqi Navy starts training recruits for Naval Infantry Battalion

By U.S. Army Sgt. W. Watson Martin

214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

UMM QASR, Iraq – A program started by the Iraqi Army is now in use for its Navy – the Direct Recruit Replacement, which began training its first class of 213 recruits May 22 for anti-terrorist operations and oil terminals security.

The Iraqi Navy DRR program is akin to what the U.S. Marine Corps places its troops through during boot camp, said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Bryan Caraveo, an Inland Water Adviser for the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. These future nautical infantrymen are the seeds of Iraq's first Naval Infantry Battalion.

These men jumped into their first week of boot camp to learn how to help defend their homeland in a matter of eight weeks before moving on to advanced, hands-on training.

It begins with a four-week stretch of strenuous physical exercises, along with instruction on handling and maintaining medium and heavy machine guns aimed at anti-Iraqi forces and playing a part in the protection of Iraq's oil industry.

The brunt of the battalion's arsenal includes the PKC and GPMG medium machine guns as well as the 12.77-caliber DShK and the .50-caliber M2 heavy machine guns. Some of these weapons will mount on six gunboats just over 85 feet in length, which are under construction in Baghdad.

The first expected ship date to the IQNIB is late July. After a week of leave, the recruits will return to finish up with three weeks of common skills training geared towards learning base security. The common skills package includes close quarters marksmanship, physical security measures including base physical security plan, force protection measures and procedures, convoy security, human and vehicle search procedures, establishing a security perimeter, guard mount, responsibilities of the guard, entry control points, tactical movement, entry and basic clearing, and advanced clearing techniques.

The next block of instruction goes into Coastal Maritime Interdiction, which focuses on board-and-search operations in concordance with the regular Navy. Trainees also learn basic infantry skills consisting of fire planning, rules of engagement, acting as a quick-reactionary force, patrolling, squad tactics and weapons handling.

Once recruits graduate, a support team will assist with the development of a series of continuation training courses and practical exercises. This implementation will help to expand the IQNIB's infantry capability (patrolling and point defense on the ground), communications, advanced boarding of water craft and Rigid Haul Inflatable Boat handling skills.

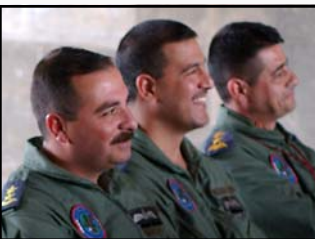
The school expects to graduate at least 193 of its recruits. The IQNIB anticipates an end-strength of 400 enlisted and 27 officers to provide force protection and interdiction on inland waterways and territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.

Pilots

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thing. There was no mediocrity in anything they did."

Thompson described Argel as a "tactically rock-solid officer who led from the front and from the heart." Frescas, he said, was a calm, confident and selfless officer who never complained or uttered a harsh word. Crate was a mission hound who was



Iraqi Air Force Capt. Ali Abass (center) shares a laugh with fellow pilots in April.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

always smiling or taking pictures. He was scheduled to go home just days before the fateful mis-

sion, but stayed on, Thompson said.

Smith shared that Downs had been a frustrated commercial airline pilot who decided to return to active duty in the Air Force after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Since then, he was deployed to eight countries, including Columbia, the Philippines and Iraq.

His friend was energetic to the extreme, often making it difficult for others to keep up with him, Smith said. The dining facility was a favorite platform for floating ideas, he said.

"I can't recall a conversation that didn't start with 'Hey, what do you think



An Iraqi officer thanks U.S. Air Force Maj. William Downs at an April graduation ceremony.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

about . . ." Smith said. "And whatever he came up with almost always made perfect sense. When it didn't, we would harass him but ultimately, he would laugh louder than the rest of us."

Downs came up with the idea to drop leaflets, school supplies, stuffed

animals and other supplies to the residents of a local village, Smith said.

On his fourth pass over the village, he sent the children on the ground into a frenzy by waving the plane's wings at them.

"He was the most endearing and respectable man I've ever known," Smith said.

Military police keep Iraqi Highway Patrol rolling

By U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

UMM QASR, Iraq— As coalition forces work to secure the country of Iraq, the U.S. Army's military police are working to make sure the Iraqi Highway Patrol has the tools it needs to help in the security effort.

Soldiers from the 503rd Military Police Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 18th MP Brigade, Mannheim, Germany, are supporting the IHP in all facets, including what they need most – vehicles.

A May 19 convoy showed the diligence of the MPs, as the IHP took home 110 blue and white Chevrolet pickups. The four-door trucks were outfitted with blue and red lights, radio systems and spotlights.

Capt. Robert J. Baker of the 503rd, said the idea of the Iraqi Highway Patrol is a new concept to Iraq, and his unit is tasked with doing everything it can to ensure its success.

"Our main effort is logistically supplying these people," Baker said. "We're taking primary responsibility in getting the IHP vehicles and weapons and other logistical supplies they need in order to operate."

Baker, from Rochester, N.Y., said getting the IHP new vehicles is a key to both forces' success, because, "Without them, the IHP can't do their job."

"These vehicles to the IHPs are just like a (Humvee) to an MP," Baker said.

"We get them the vehicles and we get them out on the road," said

Baker, who is the civil military operations officer for the 503rd. "The more vehicles we get them, the more apt they are to do their job effectively. The more Iraqi highway patrolmen we can have out on the roads, the bigger impact they are going to make."

According to Baker, this is just the beginning of new vehicles for the IHP. The 503rd is responsible for six IHP stations, with six more coming under their command by September, and Baker said that each IHP station is to be fielded with 35 vehicles.



New Chevrolet pickup trucks to be distributed to various Iraqi Highway Patrol stations await delivery at Umm Qasr. Through the training and logistical support from the 18th Military Police Brigade, Mannheim, Germany, and the 503rd MP Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., the IHP is gradually assuming more responsibility from the MPs.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

"There is going to be a projected 35 IHP stations throughout Iraq, and we're only talking about six – soon to be 12 – falling under us," Baker said.

Through the use of trucks previously fielded to the IHP, they have been able to take some of the burden off of U.S. forces.

"They're out there finding (improvised explosive devices,) they're finding (anti-Iraqi forces,) and they are making a significant contribution by doing their job in the field," Baker said.

Maj. Muhammad, a platoon leader with the Iraqi Police, said with the help from Baker and Maj. Andy T. Johnson of the 18th MP Bde., the IHP is able to do their job and work toward relieving coalition forces.

"These trucks are going to help out a

lot," said Muhammad, a 15-year veteran of the Iraqi police force. "Before the war, we had junk vehicles sent to us by the Saddam regime, and there was no way we could get this number of vehicles before the war under Saddam. These vehicles are going to do a great job in different provinces around Iraq."

Muhammad, who acts as a liaison for Johnson and Baker, said that through the training and support received, "the American government is trying to make it happen for us. They support our forces so we can take the responsibility from our friends the Coa-

lition forces. That way we can reach our goal – the Iraqi government goal – of controlling our country with our own forces."

Along with supplying the force, the 18th and 503rd are responsible for ensuring the policemen of the IHP have the knowledge and

skills at their disposal to accomplish their missions.

"We have a training academy that puts out roughly between 150 to 250 Iraqi Highway Patrol officers a month," Baker said. "It is a 21-day point of instruction for them, and it's not a monitoring relationship. It's more a working hand-in-hand relationship."

"We go out on joint patrols with them, and we deal with every facet as far as their operations to make sure they will be set up for success when we start pulling out," he said.

Future operations for the MPs include a new class of recruits beginning the academy, acquiring more trucks to complete the IHP fleet and the completion of the six new IHP stations.

Memorial Day soccer challenge brings armies together for fun

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter K. Towse

42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Iraq - Soldiers from Task Force Liberty and their Iraqi Army partners took part in a Memorial Day soccer challenge on the playing field of the Iraqi island training site May 30.

The 42nd U.S. Infantry Division's Liberators played the Iraqi Army's Islanders in a closely contested 3-2 American victory. The teams included Rainbow Division Soldiers from FOB Danger and the Iraqi army cadre represented the Islanders from the Iraqi Army's 4th Division training academy, a small island adjacent to FOB Danger in Tikrit.

"This is about fun," said U.S. Army Major Don E. McArdle, the 4th Division Iraqi island training facility advisor and the captain of the Islanders. "If we won so be it, if not, we had a good time playing."



Iraqi and U.S. soldiers faced off on a soccer field May 30 for a Memorial Day challenge.
Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter K. Towse



The crowds provided plenty of cheering for their favorite teams in a Memorial Day soccer challenge, which pitted U.S. soldiers against their Iraqi counterparts.
Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter K. Towse

The Americans scored the only goal in the first half of the game and another goal at the beginning of the second half. The Iraqi's offense improved during the second half as the team scored two goals against the

Americans to tie the score with six minutes remaining in the game. The Liberators scored another goal with four

minutes left and the Islanders could not recover in time to tie.

"They came together and played well," McArdle said of the Iraqi Army team. "I am happy with the performance of the team. Overall, it was a success and we hope to play them again in a rematch."

"It showed on the soccer field that we are just a bunch of guys here having fun," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Frantz Michel, the Liberators coach. "This was just good fun and good friends. There is no difference in culture on the soccer field."

**What you don't see
could kill you.**

**Look for secondary
explosive devices.**



0002

IEDs KILL

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Transition discussed on television program

KIRKUK – The commander of the 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade joined his 116th Brigade Combat Team counterpart on local television to discuss the security transition taking place in Iraq.

The two leaders appeared on the Iraqi Media Network program May 31.

The 116th commander spoke about turning over a coalition force base to Iraqis by saying, “We don’t turn over bases to organizations we don’t believe can handle the situation.” The Iraqi Brigade commander said he hopes someday soon the Iraqi Army can handle the security mission in Iraq so Coalition forces can focus on rebuilding the infrastructure. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Council denounces assassinations

KIRKUK – The Kirkuk Provincial Council railed against the assassins who recently killed two former leaders. Council members spoke out during a weekly KPC meeting May 31, saying the murderous acts would not prevent the spread of democracy and freedom in the province.

Council members also told the people of Kirkuk they hold the key to stopping the insurgency. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi leaders turn over suspects

MUQDADIYAH – Mayors, city council members and sheiks in the Muqdadiah area are turning in suspected terrorists to Task Force 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, officials said.

The local leadership has handed over nearly 100 people with alleged ties to terrorist cells. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army holds open house

KIRKUK – The 2nd Iraqi Army Battalion held an open house at its headquarters May 28 at its headquarters. The mayors, city council members,

and chiefs of police from Balad Ruz and Mandali attended the meeting. The officials welcomed the IA Soldiers, who are beginning security operations in the Balad Ruz District. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Police successfully repel MCU attack

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Police and Special Police Commandos defeated terrorist small-arms fire and mortar attacks on the Major Crime Unit facility in west Baghdad May 29.

The MCU came under attack shortly before 4 p.m. and Iraqi Security Forces at the site quickly consolidated to successfully repel the terrorists’ initial attack. IPs then called the Task Force Baghdad Joint Coordination Cell at Camp Liberty.

“This is another example of the ongoing coordination between Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Jerry Craig, who runs the JCC. “The IPs on site assessed the situation, called for back-up and we responded. This was a joint effort to defeat and destroy the enemies of Iraq.”

Several minutes after the attack on the MCU, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in the area and Iraqi Army forces secured the area. While on the scene, Iraqi Soldiers started taking small-arms fire and mortar fire and quickly returned fire for about 15 minutes.

“The combined efforts of Iraqi Security and Coalition forces handed anti-Iraq forces a sizeable defeat today,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesman. “Terrorists were unable to free incarcerated insurgents from the MCU compound, nor were any of their fruitless attempts at a coordinated attack successful.” (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Soldiers find terror tools in mosque

BAGHDAD -- Iraqi Security Forces searching a mosque in Western Abu

Ghraib May 29 discovered AK-47s, explosive detonation cord and batteries, typically used to make roadside bombs.

Iraqi and Coalition forces had received intelligence reports, mostly tips from local residents, that the Imam of the mosque has long advocated violence against the democratically-elected government, Iraqi civilians and Iraqi Security Forces.

Other reliable reports stated that the insurgents were actually using the mosque as a staging base for terrorist acts.

“The people in the neighborhood began giving detailed intelligence to the Iraqi Army Soldiers who recently began operations in Abu Ghraib,” said U.S. Army Maj. Web Wright, spokesman for 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

Iraqi Security Forces went through the mosque while U.S. Soldiers provided an external cordon of the area.

“U.S. forces never entered the mosque,” Wright said. “The Iraqi Security Forces cleared the mosque with the utmost sensitivities to Islam.”

The individuals on the premises were held for questioning and released on their own recognizance. (10th Mountain Division Public Affairs)

Intelligence leads to capture of AIF

SAMARRA – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces launched a planned raid on three different objectives north of here May 27 with the intent to capture four targeted anti-Iraq forces.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division and Task Force 3-69, acting on military intelligence reports, successfully apprehended Raad Hamid Thiab Al Abasi, Omar Thia Al Jasim, Haji Ibrahim Al Hameeoka, and Ahmed Majid Al Jasim.

All three objectives were secured, with five suspected insurgents being detained for further investigation.

Six AK-47 automatic rifles, two shotguns, one pistol, and one high-powered rifle were confiscated at the first objective.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Army, police defeat multiple attacks

BAGHDAD – With Coalition support, Iraqi Security Forces defeated multiple terrorist attacks in west Baghdad over a four-hour period May 29.

It started when a U.S. patrol passing a warehouse near the Major Crimes Unit facility in the Ameriyah district came under small-arms fire from anti-Iraq forces around 3:30 p.m.

This attack was followed by mortar rounds and small-arms fire directed against the main MCU complex at 4:15 p.m., which set fire to a warehouse on the corner of the MCU compound and another warehouse near the compound.

Iraqi police guarding the compound fought back, killing seven terrorists and wounding another, who was detained, reports said.

Meanwhile, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers cordoned off the area to ensure the terrorists could not continue the attack around the compound.

Elsewhere at 4:15 p.m., terrorists



Task Force Baghdad Soldiers cordon off the area around the Major Crimes Unit in the Ameriyah district and provide backup to Iraqi Police guarding the prison compound May 29.

U.S. Army photo

detonated a car bomb near the Iraqi Army's Forward Operating Base Hawk and followed it with more small-arms fire. The Iraqi soldiers killed one terrorist and laid down suppressive fire to prevent the anti-Iraq forces from advancing any closer to the base.

Over the next hour and 45 minutes, terrorists detonated one roadside bomb and engaged with sporadic small-arms fire, which had no effect on any Iraqi or Coalition units.



Smoke rises from the Major Crimes Unit in the Ameriyah district of west Baghdad following a failed AIF attack on the compound May 29. Iraqi Police guarding the prison prevented terrorists from freeing any inmates, entering the compound or mounting an effective coordinated attack.

U.S. Army photo

At 6 p.m., U.S. patrols in the vicinity of the warehouses and the MCU complex came under small-arms fire from the Ahuah Saleighin Mosque, known as a platform for delivering anti-Coalition messages.

The patrols immediately set up a cordon to prevent civilians from entering the area and getting hurt. As a sniper in the mosque's minaret continued to fire on the Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, the patrol called for support from Iraqi Police, Police Commandos and Iraqi Army. The Iraqi forces responded by storming the mosque, capturing the sniper and another man inside.

When the Iraqi soldiers searched the mosque, they found five AK-47 assault rifles and several hundred rounds of ammunition, garage door openers used to detonate bombs, six cell phones and binoculars. The Iraqi soldiers also discovered several military uniforms and boots hidden on the roof of the mosque.

Iraqi and U.S. military officials said the coordinated response demonstrated the increasingly close working relationship between ISF and Task Force Baghdad units.

"The terrorists ran directly into a wall of resistance," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "At the end of the day, it's plain to see that the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Special Commandos will not be defeated."

Military officials reported that in four hours of contact, Iraqi and U.S. forces came under nine small-arms fire attacks, one mortar attack, five roadside bomb attacks, and three car

bomb attacks.

Seven terrorists were killed, one wounded and three detained. Three Iraqi soldiers were wounded in the attacks. One U.S. Soldier was treated on site for minor wounds and returned to duty. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers defeat attacks

BAGHDAD – Iraqi and Coalition forces took part in a joint effort to defeat a coordinated attack planned by anti-Iraq forces May 29 south of Baghdad.

Coalition forces found four improvised explosive devices during a patrol on the main road through Jifr Najaf. AIF used an array of decoy IEDs to draw the joint forces to the site, but soldiers identified the bombs and secured the area to protect local residents.

The training and quick reaction of both Iraqi and Coalition forces saved the lives of numerous Iraqis, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, commander of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Further south along the same road, Iraqi Police discovered another IED near one of the busiest traffic circles east of the Diyala River. Police officers secured and removed the bomb from the scene.

Additionally, the Iraqi 3rd Public Order Brigade stopped the driver of a vehicle-borne IED traveling north from Salmon Pak. POB officers forced the VBIED to stop, which caused the driver to trigger the explosives before reaching the suspected target – the congested markets of Jisr Diyala and Zafaraniya.

"It is obvious that the Iraqi Security Forces have a large role in securing Iraq. Their actions saved the lives of many innocent citizens to include women and children," Merkel said. "Without the help of the Iraqi Security Forces and their dedication to protecting the people of Iraq, there would have been many more casualties – both Iraqi and American." (2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

News program highlights successes

K1 AIRFIELD – The 4th Iraqi Army Battalion appeared on Kurdish television May 23 to discuss recent operations. The soldiers displayed ordnance they recovered during missions in the area, including rockets, fuses and hundreds of mortar rounds. A crew from KTB-TV interviewed soldiers for its news program. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi police find and disable IED

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police discovered an improvised explosive device here May 29, a 122 mm artillery shell rigged with various wires and a cell phone used as the detonating device. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to disassemble the IED.

Iraqi police patrol finds missile

BASRAH – Iraqi Police discovered a surface-to-air missile on the shore of the Shat al Arab Canal May 27. Coalition forces were called in to assist and monitor the situation. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team cleared the scene.

Joint search nets foreign fighters

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces conducted a joint cordon and search operation May 27 to capture a known Egyptian involved in the construction of vehicle borne improvised explosive devices.

Four suspected insurgents were detained, including the targeted Egyptian and another significant target believed to be Jordanian. Two of the suspects were likely to be released following questioning, officials said.

Raid turns up cash, weapons, suspects

TIKRIT – Based upon information provided by a detainee, Iraqi Army

and Coalition forces conducted a joint cordon and search in southern Tikrit May 30.

Three suspected anti-Iraq forces were detained by soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division and Task Force 2-7. The following items were found during the search of the objective: a variety of Saddam Hussein photos and paraphernalia, \$11,000 in U.S. currency, four AK-47 automatic rifles, one M-16 magazine, and one flare.

One detainee was in possession of an Egyptian and Syrian passport. The Syrian passport indicated that the individual's name is Ali Jadan Lahmod and that he was in Syria in March and April of this year.

Iraqi Army unit takes control of FOB

KIRKUK – An Iraqi Army unit took control of Forward Operating Base Dibbis May 31 following a brief flag-raising and ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by about 200 people.

Iraqi Army soldiers with 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th

Iraqi Army Division assumed full control of security and base operation duties from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 148th U.S. Army Field Artillery Regiment. This base turnover is another in a series of scheduled transitions placing Iraqi Armed Forces units in command of military facilities throughout Iraq.

Iraqi police busy clearing IEDs

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police responded to a report from local citizens about a suspicious vehicle possibly placing an improvised explosive device in their neighborhood June 1.

Officers secured the area and found two 120-125 mm artillery rounds. Local citizens reported seeing men in a white Mazda preparing what appeared to be an IED. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team removed the device.

Elsewhere, Iraqi police found and disarmed an IED in Muqdadiah. The IED consisted of two mortar rounds and a remote detonation device. The IED was removed for future disposal.

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

BAGHDAD – Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most influential Shiite leader, has given implied approval to the country's new United Nations-appointed interim government.

In a statement issued from his office in the holy city of Najaf on June 3, 2004, Sistani noted the government lacked the "legitimacy" of elections.

"Still, it is hoped that the government will prove (its) efficiency and integrity, as well as ... its resolve to carry out the big tasks it has been assigned," Sistani said.

His endorsement gives a much-needed boost to the interim government, which takes over from the Coalition on June 30, 2004.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Suspected IED producers arrested

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police arrested three suspects believed to be involved in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices.

Officers at the New Baghdad Police Station reported three anti-Iraq forces had been apprehended and arrested following an investigation. One of the suspects reportedly confessed to detonating an IED May 11 near routes Predator and Oiler in Baghdad.

Police raid suspected AIF residence

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police raided a residence in the Adhamiya District suspected of harboring anti-Iraq forces June 2.

A team of officers from the Al Sheikh Police Station secured the area around the house and upon entry found no occupants. Following a brief search, police did find several AK-47 automatic rifles, mortar fuses, U.S. military issue M-4 magazines, magazine pouches, and a Humvee seat.

Mech patrol nets suspects, weapons,

TAJI – Iraqi and Coalition forces on patrol near the city captured a suspected anti-Iraq force member and confiscated weapons and equipment June 3.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division and 1st Battalion, 13th U.S. Armored Regiment detained an Iraqi national after he was found with five grenades, five grenade fuses, one 60 mm mortar round, two AK-47 automatic rifles, 23 fully-loaded AK-47 magazines, three gas masks, one disassembled telephone, one disassembled radio, one remote control, one fuse, and one letter describing AIF strategies against U.S. forces during the Battle of Fallujah.

The phone and radio parts are believed to be useful in manufacturing improvised explosive devices. The suspect was held for further questioning.

Iraqi Police graduate 121 from courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 121 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility June 2, as part of the Iraqi government's on-going effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 58 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 29 graduates, Counter Terrorism Investigations with 18 graduates, and Executive Leadership with 16 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation.

Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. The course previously graduated 1,764 police officers.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents; 284 students have already graduated this course.

Counter Terrorism Investigations is designed for senior police officials who will be assigned to counter-terrorist activity investigation. The course will explain the FBI's and various branches in the US Justice Department's efforts against terrorism activities both in the US and abroad. To date, 154 officers have graduated from this course.

Executive Leadership covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. Other topics include visionary leadership, organizational values, interpersonal communication skills, motivational techniques and strategies, along with strategic planning. To date, 254 officers have graduated from this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

Iraqi equipment rollup

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces this week

Ammunition.....	3.04 million rounds
Weapons.....	12,180
Individual body armor.....	6,060
T-55 tanks.....	10

